

**REMARKS**

Applicants have amended claims 1, 7, and 9 and cancelled claims 5, 6, and 8 so that claims 1-3, 7, 9-16, 18-20, 23, and 24 will remain pending, as set forth above. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments. Claim 9 was amended to correct dependency in view of the above amendments. Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's oral clarification of paragraph 19 of the Office Action that claims 6, 8-14, and 20 are considered allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the outstanding office action is respectfully requested.

Applicants have submitted herewith the information disclosure fee set forth in 37 CFR § 1.17(p) which was inadvertently omitted at the time of submission of the Information Disclosure Statement filed July 1, 2010. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the documents cited therein. A copy of the Information Disclosure Statement as filed July 1, 2010, is enclosed for the Examiner's convenience.

In response to the indication that claims 6, 8-14, and 20 contain allowable subject matter, applicants have amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of claims 5 and 6 and have deleted claims 5 and 6 accordingly. In other words, allowable claim 6 has been combined with the subject matter of claims 5 and 1 from which it depends, as represented by newly amended claim 1. Since claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1, as amended, these claims are also in condition for allowance.

Likewise, claim 7 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 8. Claim 8 has been deleted and claim 9 has been amended to depend from claim 7, accordingly. Since claims 9-16 and 18-20 depend from allowable claim 7 as amended, these claims are also in condition for allowance.

Since claims 23 and 24 incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 8, claims 23 and 24 are likewise allowable.

Applicants' do not agree with the Examiner's prior art rejection of the pending claims. The present amendment is being submitted purely to progress allowance of the case. Furthermore, the present amendment is being submitted without prejudice to any later opportunity to reverse the amendment should the Examiner not find the amended claims allowable.

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order, and such action is hereby earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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